



**Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Alaska Workforce Investment Board**

**Executive Director's Report
April 24, 2009**

There were several action items from the February AWIB meeting and staff has been working with their respective committees to accomplish these tasks over the last few weeks. The Youth Council will be meeting at the Alaska Job Corps Center in Palmer on May 27th and an agenda will be developed and forwarded to the Youth Council within the next two weeks. The next board meeting will be held on May 28th and 29th at the Mat-Su Career and Technical High School in Wasilla. The agenda was sent to the AWIB earlier this week, and staff has begun making travel arrangements and preparing board binders for the board meeting.

Two new members were recently appointed to the AWIB. Martin T. Anderson, Jr. from Sterling, Alaska was appointed to the secondary vocational education seat and Mae Hank from Pt. Hope, Alaska was appointed to the seat from a Native Organization Representing Employment and Training. Please welcome our new members to the AWIB! I would like to thank Betty Jo Dibble and Paulette Schuerch, who recently resigned from the board, for their service as members of the AWIB and wish them the very best in the future. Certificates of Recognition will be prepared for presentation at the May AWIB meeting in Wasilla.

The State Training and Employment Program (STEP) Bill (CS For Sponsor Substitute For House Bill No. 105 L&C) passed the Legislature this session and is awaiting transmittal to the Governor. The passage of this bill was a result of considerable efforts from the AWIB including the resolution passed in February, and members of the STEP Task Force which included Doug Ward, Linda Hulbert, and Fred Villa. The AWIB will receive a legislative update at the next board meeting on May 28th and 29th in Wasilla.

On April 7, 2009 a public notice was issued by the Division of Business Partnerships requesting Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Program, Alaska Youth First Program, and Denali Training Fund Youth Program grant applications for State Fiscal Year 2010. Applications are due on or before May 1, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. Two members of the Youth Council will participate in the review of the grant applications.

On April 13, 2009 a public notice was issued by the Division of Business Partnerships, on behalf of the AWIB, requesting State Training and Employment (STEP) grant applications for State Fiscal Year 2010. The application deadline is Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. The STEP grant reviews will be conducted in June by three members of the AWIB approved by the AWIB Chair and one public member.

Alaska's Strategic State Plan for Title 1 of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the Wagner-Peyser Act will expire on June 30, 2009. On April 15th, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment Training Administration requesting a one year extension of the Alaska Strategic Two-Year State Plan for Title 1 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and the Wagner-Peyser Act through PY 2009, which covers the period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. The U.S. Department of Labor has requested necessary modifications to the PY 2009 State Plan, including proposed strategies for implementation of additional funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The Policy & Planning/ Assessment & Evaluation Committee will be reviewing and providing input regarding the proposed strategies and modifications to the State Plan for PY 2009 at the next committee meeting scheduled for May 14th at 1:30 p.m. Recommendations from the Policy & Planning/ Assessment & Evaluation Committee will be incorporated into the State Plan. The State Plan will be presented to the full board at the May AWIB meeting in Wasilla seeking a resolution of support to forward for public comment and submission to the U.S. Department of Labor by June 30, 2009.

On April 30th, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development is sponsoring the 2nd Annual Apprenticeship Conference "Building Alaska's Future" at the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage. Commissioner Bishop will give an address to begin the conference in the morning. The agenda will consist of tracks for employers and education, including the benefits of apprenticeship, successful partnerships and outcomes, and an employer and education exchange. John Ladd, Administrator of the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship and John MacKinnon, Executive Director of Associated General Contractors will address the Conference over the lunch hour. Commissioner Bishop will present the 2009 Apprenticeship Awards and Deputy Commissioner David Stone will present Special Recognition Awards immediately following. The apprenticeship conference held last year was a resounding success and we expect an excellent turnout this year as well.

Committees

- The next Youth Council meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, May 6th at 10:00 a.m.
- The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12th at 10:00 a.m.
- The next Policy Planning and Assessment and Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 14th at 1:30 p.m.
- The next Workforce Readiness and Employment Placement Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 4th at 3:00 p.m.